

Point Three



The ToCH magazine
September 1984 10p



Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

Cover picture

It's fun on the Southern Region's Toc H playschemes in Jersey!

Photo: Frank Leighton

Personal View

NIGHT THOUGHTS

Of all the devotional books that have come into my hands over the past two or three years, the one I find myself most regularly reaching for, with affection, is Dom Helda Camara's book, *'A Thousand Reasons for Living'*.

Dom Helda Camara is Archbishop of Olinda and Recife in North East Brazil, the poorest and least developed part of the country. He is in the habit of waking at two in the morning, to work, write and pray in the silence of the night hours. These nightly vigils are an integral part of his spirituality.

*'Were you not to grant me the
grace during the night-watches,
of drinking the silence,
of being soaked in it,
how should I know*

*that inner silence
without which
one can hear
neither man,
nor you, Lord.'*

Dom Helda's late night reflections are simply expressed. They are very private thoughts and would have remained private had it not been for the insistence of his spiritual director.

During the day, unusual for an archbishop perhaps, Dom Helda is available to all and any who come to him, with appointment or without. Perhaps his principal ministry consists of his patient listening. He advises, he counsels, he guides, but above all, he listens. It is this listening for the voice of God in every situation, this looking for the love of God in the face of every person that intensifies his spiritual awareness.

How many of us seeing an old picture nail sticking out of a plaster wall would be moved to a contemplation of the Passion?

*'On a bare wall
Was left a single nail
for a picture which had gone.
Are more needed*

*to prompt me to pray,
when three nails supported
the Redeemer of the world?'*

Which of us would see the glory of God in a puddle?

*'I wish I were a humble puddle
that would reflect the sky.'*

Few of us would be inspired by concrete, but Dom Helda sees a reflection of God even in this dull material and waxes poetic.

*'I was afraid
that with their blocks of concrete
the skyscrapers might wound the
dawn.*

*But you ought to see
how sensitive they are
to morning light . . .'*

This is not a book of arguments or theological discussion: in one sense it is hardly a book at all. It is more like a collection of spiritual snapshots, glimpses, insights into the mind of a deeply sensitive Christian.

*'Some people are like sugar-cane: reduced to pulp,
even when crushed in the mill, all they can yield is sweetness.'
completely squashed,*

Dom Helda looks on the world with the eye of love, Christ-like love, a love which turns upside-down so many of our preconceptions, like this reflection on the story of the prodigal son.

*'I pray incessantly
for the conversion
of the prodigal son's brother.
Ever in my ear
rings the dread warning.*

*The one has awaked
from his life of sin,
when will the other
awaken from his virtue?'*

Dom Helda lives in a country where poverty and suffering are part of everyday experience. Perhaps it is because of this that his awareness is so acute, so loving. Perhaps it is because Christ identified himself with the poor, the weak and the suffering that Dom Helda can write with such conviction.

*'All, absolutely all,
by your grace
speaks to me of you.'*

In Dom Helda Camara's writing, I feel that I have not so much discovered a good book, as made a friend, another member of the communion of saints whose love reaches out even to me. What more could one possibly ask of a book, or a life?

Frank Topping

Note: *'A Thousand Reasons for Living'* is published by Darton, Longman and Todd, in paperback, at £2.25.

Welcome

The following new members were registered during June/July:

Alloa (J) Jack Harrower	Parkhurst (W) Mrs Peggy L Cossins
Ashby-de-la-Zouch (M) John L Weston	Rushden (W) Mrs Joy L Palmer
Ashby-de-la-Zouch (W) Mrs Florence M Parry Mrs Florence M Russell	Sevenoaks (M) John Charlson
Bargoed (W) Joan M Lewis Mrs E Owen Margaret Rees Shirley Winston	Swans Poperinge (J) Grp Antoon Goutteneye Mrs Coevoet Tony Deroo Luc Inion
Basingstoke (J) Mrs Muriel Steiner	Sittingbourne (J) Mrs Jean Hopkins Mrs Constance Milner Louis Milner
Bitterne (W) Mrs Gwendoline Burt	Thurcroft (Rotherham) (J) Grp Pamela Blower A M Crossland Alison J Hart Miss Winifred Needham Nellie Tomlinson Sarah A Nixon Joan Staley Mrs Mary E Worthington
Dover (W) Miss Vera Pitt	Uxbridge (J) Lt Cdr G Smith Mrs D Smith
Fakenham (M) Thomas E Claxton	Wellingborough (M) Albert J Link
Fleet Photons (J) Grp Adrian Hanley	Wessex District Mrs Hazel I Smith Keith T Smith
Huddersfield District Miss Anne C Booth	Wolverton (M) Alan O Bean
Hunstanton (J) Gladstone Badcock Harold Blackmore	Worthing (M) Rev'd Donald A A Brett
Launceston (J) Rev'd Martin P James	Yiewsley & West Drayton (M) Robert E Russell
Leicester Impact (J) Grp Kamlesh Visavadia	
Mold (W) Mrs Edna M Jones Mrs Lilian Evans	
Newcastle West (J) Grp Mrs Meriem-Soraya Clay-Egerton	
Norwich District Mrs Joyce M Notley	

A warm welcome to 48 new members



Photo: Neville Pratt

Corwen Toc H carnival queen elect (Natasha Edwards) with her retinue – all pupils of Ysgol Caer Drewyn.

For your diary

Note the Date!

Merseyside District will be holding a full day District Conference at the Mornington Road Centre for the disabled, Southport on **Saturday, 22 September** from 10.30 am to 4 pm.

Inclusive cost for the day will be £5 – to include coffee and lunch.

All enquiries to: Miss L Bottomley, 36 Oakleigh Grove, Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside L62 7QT.

National Youth Groups Weekend

21-23 September 1984

You may remember that earlier in the year we mentioned that a National Youth Weekend would be held in September. It was decided that, as a starting point, a good cross section of young people involved in Toc H could easily be obtained from our Youth Groups all over the country – and the aim of the weekend would be to promote development, growth and strength of young people in Toc H. This weekend will be to act as a springboard for 1985 – as well as a marvellous opportunity to share ideas and strengthen communication between those young people already deeply committed to Toc H.

The weekend has invoked a healthy response, with representatives coming from all over the country – and Belgium! We will be staying at a lovely Abbey in Oxfordshire with which Toc H has recently forged some links, and there will be opportunities throughout the weekend for those resident at the Abbey to talk about its work and to share some fun with us. We have planned hard work into the programme, as well as discussion, fun and thought – and we are now looking forward to the weekend with great excitement!

You can be sure of hearing 'what went on' in a later edition!

Judi Edwards

Round and about

Lincolnshire Lilies

Each spring for the past 35 years, Coningsby (Lincs) Joint Branch has provided a Lily Tea for senior citizens of Coningsby and Tattershall. The event continues to be very popular — 120 guests this year! Following a fine tea and entertainment, each guest carried away a bunch of lilies of the valley.

Redcar's Easter

Redcar (Cleveland) Joint Branch tells us of a fairly unusual approach they adopted in their Easter project. In conversation with the nursing staff of their small local hospital, they discovered that they had there 23 long stay geriatric patients. Many of these were quite alone — no visiting friends or relatives. So the Branch made up a useful gift pack for each patient — soap, face cloth, comb, brush, talcum powder, tissues etc and added some chocolates or sweets. They delivered each gift personally on Easter Sunday morning. The presents were greatly appreciated but of much more value was the personal visit and chat with each patient.

'Centring down ...'

Revd Hugh Potts, W Midlands and S Wales Regional Padre, writes: *An activity well known to our Quaker brethren under this name was put into practice by 17 of us when we met in July at the Friends' meeting house in Painswick for a quiet afternoon of reflection and refreshment.*

We were welcomed at noon by the Friends themselves on the conclusion of their morning worship, and after a cup of coffee and 'get together' with them we were allowed the use of their premises for our picnic lunch and quiet afternoon.

The first session opened with a 15 minute address on the 'unconditional friendship' of God, followed by an hour in which to walk around our exquisite Cotswold surroundings and meditate or converse. In the second session we considered our 'resources for the task' as suggested by the idea of 'abiding in the vine' in St John's Gospel Ch 15.

Tea, Light and homegoing prayers brought the event to a close. It was a very happy, friendly and peaceful occasion, offering each of us a chance to observe the Main Resolution in listening to the voice of God, and, hopefully, to take a helpful message home.

We hope to repeat this event next year and to welcome new 'takers'.

Hands across the sea!

Heather Muller, a member of Malvern (South Africa) Branch was visiting relatives in Hatfield (Herts) recently when she saw a Toc H stall at a church fete. As a result, she attended several meetings of Hatfield Women's Branch. Two members of the Branch took her to All Hallows where she enjoyed a full conducted tour of church and undercroft. This chance meeting helped Heather to complete a very happy holiday.

Come on, jump to it!

Watford Women's Branch had a fund raising flea market in the spring and decided they would like the proceeds (£50) to go to the Cuddesdon House Chapel Fund. Congratulations on this splendid gesture by a small Branch.

Sixty, not out!

Jean Perry writes to tell us of the Diamond Wedding celebration of Harold and Olive Hayward in June. Harold joined the Movement in 1929 at the old Bristol Mark and has been a member in Tunbridge Wells and in Carshalton. He and Olive are currently in Springfield District Branch and both are very active. Olive was a very well known figure in the former Women's Association, running the literature stall at Central Council for many years, besides being a frequent wartime helper at Crutched Friars. Though we're a bit late in the day, we all send our warmest congratulations to Harold and Olive on their long and happy partnership!



You never know where it will lead!

The Secretary of Fleet (Hants) Joint Branch has sent us the following story:

We had been taking film shows to a home for elderly, frail nuns. They are really great ladies. It is an RC establishment and most of our members are Free Church, but there is always keenness as to who shall go to 'our nuns'. The nuns are of a teaching fraternity with such lively minds in spite of walking aids, etc.

In April '83 we lost my father (then Branch Pilot) and in August the same year our founder member lost his wife. We are neighbouring households and leant on one another during this period. The nuns prayed with and for us during this period.

One of the nuns who looks after the older sisters was away in Ireland at the time and rang me on her return. The conversation went something like this:

Sister—*'I couldn't hold my peace any longer, Ruby, I just had to talk to you. You see I've done nothing but talk Toc H solidly for a fortnight'.*

Me—*'Why whatever's happened sister?'*

Sister—*'Well, as you know, I've been in Belfast, and they just can't believe how Catholics and Protestants can live together, let alone be such friends. I've talked, talked, talked Toc H, about how Toc H has all sorts of people in it, about you who are Protestants being so kind to us and how we all love one another here. I think they will believe because they know I only tell them the truth ...'*

Dorset 'day out'

Dorset Border District tells us of an unusual Toc H event earlier this year when the Director was visiting their part of the Region. They invited Ken as guest of honour for a 'day out' in Sherborne. The day started with a splendid salad luncheon provided by Sherborne & Yeovil Women's Branch. Then, local historian Gerald Pitman led a conducted tour of the town's ancient buildings — including Almshouses, School and Abbey. Tea provided the opportunity for members from many parts of the Region to meet each other and to talk with the Director.

Congratulations to:

Mrs Dora Pearce, Chairman of our Paris Branch who has been made MBE in recognition of all her work for the British community in Paris.

South African Visit

Plans are now being formulated for the proposed visit to South Africa next summer of a small group of Toc H volunteers. This is seen as the first stage in the launching of an exchange programme. The group will consist of five very experienced projects people under the leadership of John Dickson, a member of staff in the West Midlands. John worked in South Africa from 1971-1975 and was a Toc H member in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

For the first five weeks, the group will work at the newly acquired Toc H National Centre in the Witwatersrand gold mining area, west of Johannesburg.

They will be joined by South African volunteers who will stay for varying periods and the combined team will be responsible for running holidays for disadvantaged people, ranging, we understand, from Black young people from Soweto to elderly 'shut-ins' from one of the large cities. Some labouring work to help this new Centre to become established will also be needed.

The remainder of the time will be spent visiting the various Regions of Toc H South Africa, enjoying the hospitality of Toc H members and sharing in some of their service activities. One of the aims of the visit is to help local membership to increase the involvement of young people in Toc H activities.

While Toc H is not a political organisation, its whole ethos is opposed to the segregation of people on grounds of race, class or creed. Toc H in South Africa, as here, believes it must always remain within the laws of its own society. It nevertheless works for change by creating opportunities for people of different racial groups to come to know and understand one another. Toc H in South Africa has a substantial number of Black members.

I have heard that it has been suggested that this visit is to be restricted to Whites.

That is simply not true. Toc H, here or in South Africa, has made no such conditions. Anybody with the right Toc H background and experience may apply. Of course South Africa is a racially segregated country but attitudes are changing all the time and can vary much between states.

The group will be going first and foremost to learn. The visit will also, we believe, be an encouragement to our fellow members who are working for change in a difficult and complex situation. And it will help Toc H South Africa to develop its own project programme.

The approximate dates of the visit are from the end of June to the end of September 1985. Participants will be expected to contribute £300 towards the cost of their air fare (the balance being met from a fund raised by Toc H for this specific purpose).

The closing date for applications (from people with wide Toc H projects experience only) is 30 September 1984. Application forms are available from Keith Rea, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Ken Prideaux-Brune

Photo: Miss H Davies



Denbigh Joint Branch shared in St Mary's Festival of Flowers in June. The Festival was built round the theme of 'Pentecost - a Celebration of Faith', and illustrated the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

It's daylight robbery!

But you'll be glad you witnessed it!

To the ominous sound of splintering glass Glynn Edwards of the TV Series 'Minder' breaks into a typical family home in our dramatic 13 minute video "It's Daylight Robbery".

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SUN ALLIANCE
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'I Remember...!'

Few of the hundreds of friends made by Neville Minas over the years could guess the amazing wartime story he has to tell. For more than 30 years, Neville lived in Mark XIII (The Brothers' House) and worked in the finance department of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG). For much of that time, he was the devoted and much loved Warden of the Mark and became a doyen of the Kennington Branch that met there. Last year, he retired early to settle in Cambridge. Only then did this quiet, shy man reveal that in 1942 he trekked nearly 400 miles – much of it in appalling conditions – to escape from the invading Japanese in Burma.

Neville's Armenian father was a civil engineer employed by the Government of Burma. They were a close knit family and all devout Anglicans: Neville, youngest of the family's seven children, hoped to become an Anglican priest.

At the time of Pearl Harbour, Neville was 19 years old. Just before Christmas in 1941, he was fire watching in Rangoon and saw the first Japanese air attack on the city. His firm moved him to Mandalay – his first ever separation from his family. Deeply worried by the news of the continuing Japanese attacks, he watched the port daily to see if his family were among the Rangoon evacuees. One day they were and the whole family was together again.

But not for long! On Good Friday 1942, Japanese aircraft bombed Mandalay and set the town ablaze. After finding temporary shelter in the SPG school, the family moved out by bullock cart. At Myingyan, one of Neville's brothers – a railway worker – found them all a corner in a densely packed train. Before the train could leave, the town was bombed but they got away at last and were off-loaded at an evacuation centre in the north of



the country. Since aircraft passages to India were at a premium, Neville offered to walk out with a group of 30 customs officers and to meet up with his family when he reached Calcutta.

The first few days, says Neville, 'were like a glorified picnic. We had rice, fresh water and fruit and it was flat. We could stop off at villages and all the villagers would be very hospitable'.

Then the horrors began! For three days they tried to avoid the dangers of jungle travel by wading waist deep in the Chindwin River: they were plagued with blood sucking leeches which clung to the skin and left dreadful sores. They were desperately short of food. Later, they had to cross the Naga hills whose 'friendly'

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR 1985



With only four months to go before the first day of January 1985, plans around the country are taking shape for this year of celebration for Toc H. It is an exciting opportunity that the 70th Birthday of the Movement and the centenary of Tubby's birth – to name but two of the anniversaries in 1985 – coincide with the International Year of Youth. We should all take advantage of these occasions to build and strengthen our work for the future of Toc H.

The theme for IYY (peace, participation and development) are truly relevant in Toc H today. We each have a responsibility to encourage younger people to come forward and be more involved at all levels including the leadership of the Movement. Recent thinking within the CEC reflects these themes – and we must re-examine what we are doing, locally and nationally, to further the spirit of Toc H.

I would be delighted to hear from you regarding planned activities for 1985 and beyond, whether they be at Branch, Group, District or Regional levels. (Address below). This will help me to support, co-ordinate and

publicise events! If you would like to use the official IYY logo (above) please contact me as soon as possible. The International Year of Youth Committee are also interested to hear of Toc H events contributing to the year.

1985 should involve us all – not just the young – so let's use IYY to help us strengthen and build Toc H for the future.

Judi Edwards, Projects Development Officer, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT

Warden Manor Awards in IYY

Warden Manor Awards, given to encourage local Toc H initiatives, will in future be made annually. In 1985, the International Year of Youth, these grants will be used to support the work of young Toc H groups and to support initiatives taken by Branches with the specific intention of involving young people in Toc H activity. Details and application forms are being sent to all Branches and groups this month.

Colsterdale

The Colsterdale Committee has been reviewing its letting fees and has agreed revised charges as follows from 1 January 1985:

	Minimum		
	Adults	Children	Charge
Weekends	£ 6.00	£ 5.00	£ 90.00
Mid-weeks	£ 9.50	£ 7.50	£140.00
Full weeks	£15.00	£12.50	£230.00

All enquiries and applications, please to: Mr E Roebuck, 53 Brown Hill Lane, Holmebridge, Huddersfield HD7 1QW.

WHO WENT TO WEIRSIDE?

A number of readers have sent the correct solutions to this brain teaser in our July issue. The winner – first correct solution received – is Doreen Lathan of West Hartlepool. At her request, the cheque for £10 has been passed to Cleveland's Friendship Circles Holiday Fund.

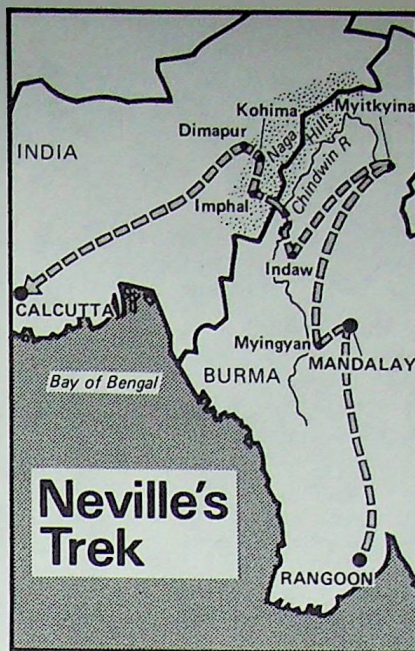
The solution was:

- The Pilot visited Weirside last year.
- The Secretary joined the Movement in 1947.

inhabitants included tigers and head hunting tribes. Safely over the hills, Neville was hit by the worst horror of the whole journey. While collecting firewood, he picked up what he thought was a charred stick only to find that it was a child's arm. Reflecting sadly on this time, Neville says '... *We slept and walked among the dead. There was always the stench of death. We had never seen so many dead bodies – and I never want to see a vulture again.*'

At long last, Neville and his party reached India and safety. His family, though, were not in Calcutta to meet him as planned. Months later he found his mother and an aunt but his father and brothers had not survived the journey.

Neville, himself, after a protracted illness, recovered and joined the RAF – actually going back to Rangoon in 1947. In 1949, he came to London and devoted the next 34 years of his life to his USPG and Toc H work and to extending his vast network of friends. When recalling this period of his life, this quiet, unassuming Christian gentleman says only '*Hundreds and thousands of people have had experiences like mine ... but it was an experience I shall never forget.*'



Note: the map is reproduced by courtesy of the editor of Network – the USPG journal. Much of the information included here is based on an article 'Amazing life of a quiet Christian' first published in Network's Winter 1983 issue. – Editor



'LETTER FROM AMERICA' - IO



by Margaret McGettrick

A lot of publicity and public interest is following the showing of a film about a little boy called Adam Walsh. Adam was abducted from a shop after he had become separated from his parents. He was then sexually assaulted and murdered. Public airing of the film shocked America by revealing the fact that over a million children are currently 'missing'. The film highlighted the trauma experienced by the families of these children, often left to search and to finance the search themselves after the initial police investigation had failed to trace the missing child.

The programme showed photographs of 40 missing children and resulted in such a public response that 18 of them were recognized and re-united with their parents. Many abductions occurred in broad daylight. Three approaches were used. Sometimes a child was told that his parent was involved in an accident so 'come with me'. At others, a child would be asked for assistance. ('Please will you help me find my little puppy that is

lost.') In some cases, authority was used ('I am a police officer – come with me').

We bring up our children to respect authority, absolutely. We teach them to trust adults. We have to teach our children that some adults are not trustworthy and that they have the right to say 'no' to an adult in certain circumstances. Some practical tips were given to parents. Have a family password. If a stranger approaches a child and does not use the word, they must never go with them. Have a plan which the children understand, so they know what to do if they become separated from their parents at any time. Teach children to scream if a stranger approaches or tries to take them away – specifically 'I don't know you, you're not my Mummy/Daddy'.

Very often, a child is picked long before the abduction occurs. The abductor gets to know the child, over a period of time to gain his/her trust ('What's your name? Where do you live?') A child should be

taught never to give his/her name to a stranger.

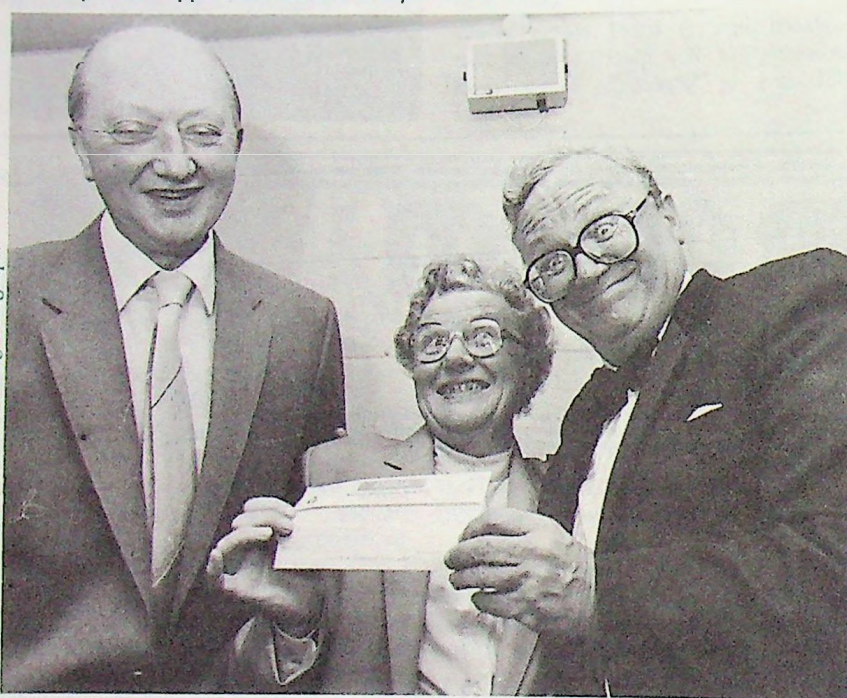
I wept as I watched a programme aired on the Eternal World Network as a mother described the trauma following the abduction of her daughter from the family tent on a camping holiday. Despite phone calls from the abductor it was a year before they knew their daughter was dead. The experience had resulted in great spiritual growth as the mother had learned to forgive her child's murderer.

Our hearts and prayers should go out to those suffering such trauma and anguish. Perhaps this is still a USA problem but there are a few simple steps we can take to prevent it happening to us and to protect our children from this new phenomenon of child abuse and abduction.

*Yours ever
Margaret*



A 14 mile sponsored walk brought in some £250 to Surrey District Toc H. Among the 20 'walkers' were one Cheshire Home resident in a wheelchair and one lady with an artificial leg. The money raised is to be divided among the District's projects with the mentally handicapped; the blind and deprived children.



Eric and Mavis Sharpe - both Rushden members - present Sir Harry Secombe with a cheque for £600 for the British Diabetic Association of which he is President. (Fund raising story in Round and About in our August issue.)



At Swindon District's mini handi in March (disco music by Chiseldon Toc H Secretary, Vic Court and his son Andrew) sufficient youngsters were involved to enable a young Toc H Group to be set up. This Group ('The Wallabies') meets in the Hawthorne Centre for handicapped people. In May the Group played a challenge skittles match with the Swindon Disabled Sports Club and some 30 people (disabled, Toc H Branch members, and members and friends of the new Group) had a wonderful evening.





Ninety five year old Mrs Elizabeth Jones tests the new Parker Knoll reclining chair presented by Criccieth (Gwynedd) Men's Branch to their local Day Centre.



A team of 15 sponsored cyclists raised £300 for Thurrock Toc H. The money will help finance holidays for handicapped children.

Photo: Thurrock Gazette



High Brooms Hotel manager holds the hotel's 'swear bottle' containing £163 while his wife hands over a cheque for £300 raised by sponsored walkers. These sums (part of the more than £1,000 raised by hotel patrons for Toc H over the years) will help Toc H in High Brooms continue their long standing work with the elderly.



They helped 'man' the float at the 1984 Corringham Carnival.

Photo: Thurrock Gazette



Bognor Regis Joint Branch have presented a seat to their War Memorial Hospital as a permanent memorial to founder member Tommy Tomlinson who died last year.

Photo: Southern Post Ltd

TocH Summer School - '84 (SOME PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS)

I

The theme for our Alison House week was 'Who are the Poor?' and the main speaker was David Mayhew, our staff man in Newcastle. A mixed bag of a couple of dozen students assembled — old friends from previous years and welcome newcomers.

These are my personal overall impressions of the week.

Cyril Carrier has to be congratulated once more for his planning and Revd Basil Jones for his humorous and wise short talks at our informal morning prayer sessions.

What did we learn? We gained a better grasp of where the needs are greatest — particularly here in this country though some time was given to the struggle for life itself among the poor of other lands.

Poverty may be in the physical dimension or in the spiritual realm, but the one does not necessarily go with the other. We learned of people in other lands who hardly knew where their next meal was coming from yet had an abiding joy and trust in a loving God. Widespread unemployment in our own land by contrast can bring spiritual bankruptcy to many, even where physical needs are met.

We had a most inspiring session led by Revd Paul Watts of All Saints Church, Nottingham who described the painstaking ways in which, by team effort, practical self help schemes have been built in one of the most run down areas of that city.

The aim of the week was to stir us into using our imaginations and wits to find ways of helping others in our own communities. *'The harvest is great but the reapers are few'*, so we have to grow through prayer and practice and learn to draw others to join us in the fields (or the streets!).

Nor did we neglect 'play times'. We explored the surrounding countryside, the village made famous through Arkwright's water powered spinning mills and the wonders of Cromford's excellent bookshop. We visited the ancient Minster of Southwell — a building of wonder and delight. En route, police and miners' pickets brought point to our academic studies!

Richard Crump — Carshalton

II

... Sincere welcome, sparkling wit, deflating comment, encouragement to explore in depth our outer and inner worlds, and much more, characterised the coming together of men and women from Crewe, South and North Wales, Blackpool, Kidsgrove, Loughborough, Carshalton, Newcastle upon Tyne, etc.

The programme was devoted to considering 'Poverty'.

In an illustrated talk 'Poverty in the Parish', Revd Paul Watts tackled two questions — 'Why does poverty exist?' and 'What should we do?'

David Mayhew demonstrated effectively the massive, never ending but certainly not hopeless challenge of Poverty. His Biblical exposition of the relevance of 'The Book of Proverbs' to the origins of poverty, was revealing and convincing. He quoted with persuasive power Bishop David Sheppard's Dibleby Lecture and presented the challenge of his larger work 'Bias towards the Poor'. Even more effective was the video of 'Parris down and out on the Tyne'. This was the one week, true story of how Matthew Parris, Conservative MP for West Derbyshire, accepted a challenge from Granada Television to live for a week in Newcastle on a single man's Supplementary Benefit. He took a small privately let flat, with rent and rates paid as if by the State. He was given £25.80 by The Social Services from which Granada deducted £9.30 for the fixed expenditure which a genuine

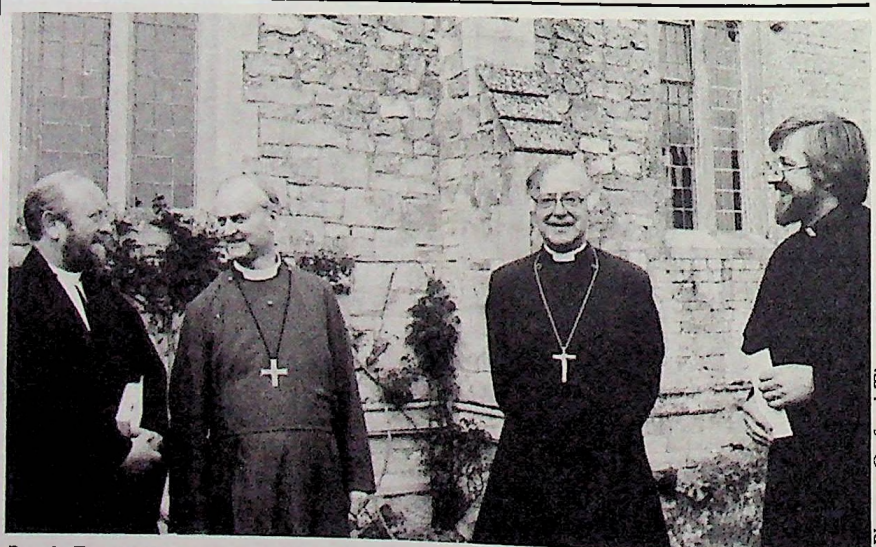
recipient would have to make. The rest had to suffice for food, gas, electricity and luxuries. His article in *The Times* (23 January) starts 'You can forget leather armchairs and Socratic dialogue. There is nothing like physical discomfort to challenge intellectual certainty and I'm cold'... 'Is there any way you can tell a man that his industry, his job and his family are necessary, even glorious casualties in the battle to transform the British economy and revolutionise social attitudes, and make him feel good about it? ...'

Colin Campbell, from Nottingham, conjured up an encouraging vision of the future of the Old House at Poperinge. In recent months and years it has become even more deeply grounded in the affection of the local Belgian residents. . .

There were many other happy activities, including an excursion to Southwell Minster and Newstead Abbey — the one time home of Lord Byron. John Jury from Cardiff, and Ernest Long from Llanllwch as MCs contributed and encouraged us in the final social. Modesty and historical accuracy requires me to add that I provided a Cornish Toc H evening with the aid of records of A L Rowse's poetry and prose, and songs by Brenda Wootton and Richard Gendell.

If readers have not sampled a Summer School, hosted by Alan and Irene Robson in Alison House, they do not know what joy, inspiration and fellowship they have missed. Make amends by coming next year!

Revd Wynford Phillips — Cornwall



Revd Frank Topping (Toc H Chaplain) and Revd Colin Rudd with the Bishop of Oxford and the Archbishop of Canterbury at the dedication of the Cuddesdon Chapel. (Full story in our July issue.)

Photo: Oxford Times

From the Director

by Ken Prideaux-Brune



This is my final contribution under this heading. In November I hand over the tasks of Director after ten years in the post. That doesn't mean that I will never again contribute to *Point Three*. I hope to continue working for the Movement in a different capacity and I'm sure I will feel moved to write occasionally – but no longer under this heading.

It is not for me to sum up the joys and the traumas of these ten years – the balance sheet is for others to produce. But I do sense now the first stirrings of a new mood of hope in many parts of the Movement and I think there is a chance that that new mood may be just strong enough to enable us all to unite behind the new leadership to get Toc H expanding and moving forward once again.

In my last column I suggested that the time might be ripe for the Movement to adopt a clear and specific development policy. The Central Executive, as is not infrequently the case, has shown itself

to be several jumps ahead of me. Back in May a paper went to all Councillors from the Executive outlining its present thinking on policy and seeking a wider discussion. There's a lot more thinking to be done, many more debates to be encouraged, before we have a clear and generally acceptable statement of policy but the process has begun and will undoubtedly gather momentum in the coming months. Already some of the strands that must be woven into the final policy have become clear.

1. Our policy must take seriously our commitment to 'transmit to future generations'.
2. Our policy must take seriously our fundamental resource – the dedication and commitment, the skills and experience, of our existing membership.
3. We must find the right way of welcoming into membership – in the full sense of that term – the increasing number of younger people who are deeply committed to us but at present feel themselves in some ways excluded. And if that means that our strange and complex structure – and all the committees that cling to it like limpets – must be reformed we must be willing to set about the work of reformation.
4. We must find ways of doing something more to meet some of the deepest needs of our time – heavens knows, there are enough of them. This means returning to the inner cities as well as continuing to recognise the needs of rural areas. It means developing new, continuing pieces of significant work that can draw together existing members and new people and can provide a focus for our concern. And it also means recognising the value of the quiet, unassuming work that is

going on all over the country. I believe that the current survey of Branch activity will reveal that we are in fact making a very much greater contribution than we recognise.

5. Above all our policy must be true to our Christian foundation and to our commitment to the way of openness which we believe to be the way of Jesus. Our activities, whether large and pioneering, or small and personal, are not ends in themselves. They are the means by which we enable people to grow – and most particularly to grow spiritually.

I believe, then, that we have identified some of the important questions even though we are only at the start of the process of finding answers. Within all this, however, there is a great temptation and that is to be content with vague generalities, a bland and innocuous statement of the obvious. If our policy is to be a tool for development, with a real cutting edge, it must have built into it specific achievable objectives and must identify some of the immediate actions that will be needed if it is to be implemented. Pious hopes do not make a policy.

A real policy, with specific objectives and a strategy for achieving them, will be uncomfortable. But the Christian life was never meant to be comfortable. It will mean change and that is never easy to accept. We cannot hope that every single one of us will agree wholeheartedly with every single detail of the policy which finally emerges. But a strategy for development whose broad thrust we can accept is surely better than a slow drift into oblivion.

Perhaps the most significant development of this year – and one which lies behind the policy debate – is that for the first time we have released the energy and vision of our younger members and have enabled some of them to begin to play their proper part in the leadership of the Movement at national and Regional level. As the momentum builds up – and it will – those of us who have been around for some time will be needed to help with the navigation but we must recognise that it is no part of our function to apply the brake.

So, I wish my successor every joy in the exciting times that lie ahead for us all. I want to finish by expressing a very sincere 'thank you' for the privilege – and I regard it as a very great privilege – of being allowed to serve the Movement in this capacity for the past ten years. And to give special thanks for the generous hospitality and warm welcome I have received in so many homes all over the country. There are very few jobs which offer this kind of reward.

COLLECT, COLLECT!

When you read this the halfpenny will have only some three months of life!

In our April issue, we described Peter East's 'You can help a child' project in Bangladesh and invited you to make a drive all round your neighbourhood to collect halfpennies for Peter.

Doug Sobey (Gloucester) has offered a two litre bottle of champagne to the Branch or individual producing the largest sum.

We're asking you to cash in your halfpennies at the end of December and send us a cheque, payable to Toc H. We undertake that the whole sum raised will go to Peter's project.

Meanwhile, how about writing to the Editor with progress reports? We have heard mutters from around the country about ½p collections but we have no firm reports yet.

Open Forum

CORRECTION

In *Open Forum* in our August issue, we published a letter from Bob Knight under the heading *The Toc H Experience*. We wrongly listed the title of the research project in which Bob is involved. The correct title is: *Religion and Values from age 16 to 19*.

—Editor

Day Conference

At the Day Conference in Maidstone, we were all asked to take on a new commitment. After discussion, our Branch have gone ahead. On a Monday evening in July, the Branch visited one ward of a local hospital for the mentally ill to entertain the residents. It was a very happy evening, with one of our members playing the familiar old songs and everyone joining in the singing. We passed round soft drinks and biscuits which were much appreciated. These visits will now be a regular part of our Branch programme.

J A Nicholls

Bexhill (E Sussex)

Thinking of the challenge thrown out to us all at the St Alban's Day Conference, I've had an idea.

I understand that there is to be a Toc H marathon in North London in September (see notices in July and August issues of *Point Three*). This could be excellent training to those who would be willing to join a Toc H team to enter the main London marathon next Spring.

Assuming our team became part of the 20,000 or so taking part, sponsorship could turn some of our visions into reality. If every member sponsored the Toc H team members for, say, 5p a mile (and brought in friends, acquaintances, colleagues) considerable sums would be raised.

It is my intention to complete the 26 mile marathon next year (by teatime DV!) and I would welcome companions of any age (remember that an octogenarian finished the course this year!).

So here's to 1985 and what we can do for the Family Purse and for the fellowship so vital to the society in which we find ourselves!

Antony Spencer

London

Note: Any more news of individual or group 'follow-up' to the Day Conferences so far?

— Editor

Thank you!

On holiday in Weymouth recently, I arranged, through the courtesy and help of my host, to attend the local Branch meeting. In the event it turned out to be one of the highlights of a very enjoyable stay. My wife and I were made most welcome, and shared a splendid tea to mark the occasion of the birthday of one sprightly little lady who made a nonsense of her 86 years...

Toc H really does 'build friendships', and this part of the four fold commitment struck me most forcibly during that memorable evening. There is nothing to fear for the future of our Movement if we can all model ourselves on open fellowship of the kind displayed by Weymouth Branch.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen for your wonderful hospitality, and renewed greetings from this small corner of Mid-Wales.

Ernie Carter

Welshpool

Everyman's Club

Friendship matters, and the Friendship that Jesus offered is for everyone and knows no categories and no boundaries. How heartily, therefore, we must endorse John Mitchell's argument in his *Personal View* (July's *Point Three*) and welcome the initiative of the Newport Branches which he mentions.

However, there is no necessary conflict between 'Everyman's Club' and having a 'professional' approach, or appealing for funds from trusts and government agencies. Moreover, 'professionals' do not always have to work with 'certain' categories of client as John suggests. There is a host of professional community workers up and down the country committed to breaking down barriers and building good relationships, just as we seek to. We have much to offer them but much to learn as well.

The Ucanduit project in Newcastle (described in your July issue) involves people from all kinds of 'category' and background. It is developing an 'Everyman's Club' in modern clothing. In addition to the support of Toc H members it depends upon help from the Government, the Church, the local authority, and other voluntary bodies. If we are to 'get Toc H into people' in the 1980s, then we cannot ignore such sources of potential support and insight. We need to be able to speak their language, and understand their needs and objectives. Where barriers exist

between the people in these bodies and those whom they serve, then we must play our part in breaking the barriers down. This demands that we be a Movement which is prepared to learn the language and methods of our neighbours, and to be prepared to work with them in a credible and well defined way — otherwise we will never be heard, nor our Light seen, and Toc H will continue its steady decline into oblivion.

David Mayhew

Newcastle

'The new old 'uns'

I am 81 and joined Toc H in 1922. I congratulate the member who sent in the summary of Arthur E Davies' address to the Cheltenham Branch ('10,000,000 OAPs', in your June issue). I found this particularly interesting because I had just read an article entitled 'The Modern Pensioner — the New Old 'Uns', in June's Pensioners' Voice'. This author, unlike Arthur E Davies, seemed scathing about 'outside voluntary organisations'. However, the two articles taken together offer encouragement to those Toc H Groups and Branches with elderly members. I so much agree with the closing words of the *Point Three* article: 'Who better than Toc H to encourage the elderly to do things . . . to get cracking?'

Geoffrey Kestell-Cornish

Barnstaple

'Onward Christian Soldiers'

I have to write in response to the letter from R J R Trefusis under this heading in the July issue, and yet I find it extremely difficult to do so. I can understand so well how he feels but when he says 'a defensive war . . . is no more evil than going to the assistance of some old lady who is being mugged' he is absolutely wrong. All war is evil. Some may regard it as a lesser evil than, for example, the loss of freedom, but it cannot possibly be compared to going to the assistance of some old lady. Toc H is world wide. We have members in many countries. How then would a member react if he found himself face to face with the 'enemy' in the form of another Toc H member? This could happen. The mugger is not conscripted to attack old ladies. Military forces in time of war (and sometimes in peace time) are. What would these two Toc H members do in such a situation? It is one into which they should never be put.

When the writer ends his letter in defence of war by saying 'then we can

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

project a truly Christian caring, brotherly image' I cannot remain silent. If we believe that God is our Father then it follows that *all men* are our brothers.

I hope that no reader will regard anything that I have written as being in any way derogatory of the suffering and sacrifices of the soldiers in two world wars. But the 'enemy' soldiers made sacrifices too. The action of the men on both sides was noble. It is war itself that is wrong. Toc H is a constituent member of the Week of Prayer for peace. All our members ought to be praying, not only during that week, but *constantly* that Governments may come to realise that never again must they resort to war. This is the only way to honour those who served in two world wars. We do not emulate the Good Samaritan by going to war but by loving our fellow men of every race, colour and creed as our blessed Lord loves us.

Revd Bill Elliott
Chester

Branch Speakers

On several occasions of late I have been in the company of people who have made enquiries of me regarding Toc H. It has saddened me to discover that these people have been the invited speakers at various Toc H Branches in different parts of the country and yet were completely unaware of the purpose of the Movement whose members they were addressing. It does seem to me that Branches should at least convey something of Toc H to any visitor and in particular those whom they have invited to be speakers at their meetings. This is a matter which should be the concern of every Branch Executive.

Edgar Stickley
Kidderminster

What is a 'member'?

I felt no need to answer Jim Lewis's letter (May issue) until I read the replies in the July *Point Three*.

Like Jane, I don't talk about 'religion' either, because I'm not a church-going Christian. But I do talk at length about a way of life which I can only call Christian and I do try to follow the teaching of Jesus. He's one of the best teachers I know.

I'll try to explain. Many of you, by now, will have been to one of the Day Conferences and taken part in the Act of Worship. At the beginning of that service, the opening prayer is,
We come together in your presence, O God

*To meet Your Spirit,
Not to give a break to religion
but to return to the Eternal,
Not to judge the words we hear
but to draw life from the Spirit
who is life.*

*And to be still and know
that You are God
making us and remaking us,
loving and pardoning, everlastingly*
That prayer also states what I believe, but not in the same way. I would rephrase the prayer thus:
*We come together
Not to give a break to religion
but to return to the eternal
Not to judge the words we hear
but to draw life from the spirit which
is life.*

*And to be still and know,
that this spirit
Makes us and remakes us
Loving, pardoning and everlasting.*
I find the ideas in this so expressive, so complete, that to stick a name on this and turn it into an object of worship is to diminish it.

Perhaps what I am saying is what Moses meant when he came down from Sinai and saw his people worshipping the Golden Calf. (I never could see how this differed from the way we worshipped in church when I was younger.)

I don't believe in a personal life after death, yet I feel I am part of eternity and I acknowledge this when I recognise my life as an infinitesimally small but contributory part of a continuing whole — a mere dot in the sands of time.

I know that what we do, good or evil, will live after us and that this is, and will be, a part of the spirit which is life. Like all other humans, I can play a conscious part in forming that spirit and the Christian way of life is my guide in this. To me, these are the eternal realities behind the ebb and flow of things temporal.

Perhaps this is the knowledge shared by Jesus and his disciples and again I quote from the Day Conference Act of Worship:

'It was corporate, not individual. So it could not be expressed in the words of one individual. It was what they knew themselves in their life together, what they knew in sharing their life with Jesus. It was in terms of life shared together and truth experienced together and joy revealed to them together.'

Jane may not talk about religion, but this doesn't mean she is not a religious person. Nor does it mean that Toc H principles are being ignored.

I didn't join Toc H so that it could bring me to the Church, nor for it to turn me into a believer. I joined because I wanted to share with you, on equal terms, a way of life, guided by the teachings of Jesus, which could be called, a kingdom of heaven.

Ann Crouch
Knaresborough

The pure air act!

As a non-smoking Central Councillor I thoroughly endorse what has been said in previous *Point Three* issues concerning smoking in the Central Council Conference Room. I agree that it is very distressing if you happen to be sitting next to or behind a smoker. Please can I suggest that the CEC (or whoever is responsible) seriously consider the suggestion by Gerry Conibeer in June's *Point Three*?

Brenda Wallis
Weymouth

Note: The CEC has now decided that there will be no smoking in the Conference Hall this year, since one of our new Councillors has emphysema.

— Editor

Remember Huw?

Huw Gibbs, our former PRO, later a staff member in the North Wales and North West Region, was ordained deacon on 23 June. He has taken up his new duties in Bistre, Buckley, Clwyd. As he finished training he wrote to us to express his warm thanks for all the support he was receiving from Toc H friends. He says: '*... All through this sometimes difficult period of training I have been assured and encouraged by Toc H of prayer and other help, and I cannot begin to tell you what a strength and comfort it has been for both of us.*

'We have received letters of encouragement from around the country at different times, often when we felt low and despondent and in the last week, shoals of cards and letters have been arriving ... I just never imagined that I had had that sort of effect on people. We are overwhelmed and grateful to everybody. May God bless all of you and Toc H in the future ...'

Huw's new address is: Revd C H Gibbs,
52 Briar Drive, Buckley, Clwyd
CH7 2AW.

'A HUNDRED LETTERS' by John Mitchell

As explained more fully in last month's Point Three, John Mitchell wrote, during Autumn 1983, to 100 members or participants in Toc H, asking them why they were in Toc H, and whether it had changed them. Half these letters were sent to members in traditional Branches, and half to younger people involved in youth groups or projects. Last month the focus was on what they had to say about Fellowship, Acceptance and Welcome, and it was clear from the extracts printed that, for both young and old, that aspect of Toc H was very important.

2. 'Mixture'

It was clear from the replies that many people saw the mixture of people in Toc H as being important — both as an invaluable ingredient in the fellowship itself, but also as a learning experience for the individual. Inevitably, comments about 'mixture' intermesh with those about 'fellowship', and 'fairmindedness', but those quoted below are those that were clearest about the value of the 'mix'.

A member who joined in the 1920s writes: *'From the beginning, the two things that I found so attractive in Toc H — and this has remained constant ever since — were, first, meeting men with experience entirely different from my own, rather narrow, view of life at that time . . .'* and from one who joined ten years later: *'This was something which impressed me when I first came into contact in the 30s. Perhaps I was lucky in the Branch, where we had a mixture virtually from dustman to the duke . . .'*

A more recently joined member — this one joined in the 1960s — writes *'Certainly Toc H has enabled me to meet a wider variety of people than I might otherwise have done . . .'* and another writes: *'It gives me an opportunity to meet, mix with and work with a wide cross section of people from all walks of life, ages and personalities'.*

The younger correspondents echo this theme consistently. A young woman writes: *'It's not true to say Toc H changed me . . . I think it is more true to say that . . . it gave me the space and opportunity to find myself when I first started projects . . . something my family, school and church youth club could never do. I suppose it is because Toc H took me away from my home, placed me in a motley group of people, many times, and challenged me to live with them and get on with them'.* Another volunteer puts it: *'For me, going on projects means that I can get the chance to meet people who have nothing to do with the rest of my life — all sorts of people, with all sorts of lifestyles, and we can learn from each other . . .'* A regular project leader writes: *'My involvement in projects has also given me a better understanding of people from different backgrounds — from "rich" kids to "working class" to Borstal kids — all of which have good and bad points, all of which have so much to offer in a group, working together.'*

'I like the fact that anybody can be involved in Toc H, and I think that's what makes it unusual and special for me. Also Toc H never judges anybody, only accepts them for what they are and sees positive value and worth in them (hopefully),' writes yet another volunteer, and by the same post came another letter from a young nurse: *'What do I find in Toc H that keeps me involved with it? I think one main reason is because of all the different people I have met. It's not that you can't keep in touch with these people outside of Toc H, but it is the pooling of ideas and discussions that I enjoy, that perhaps you would not get if meeting under different circumstances. The fact that a collection of very different people, with different interests, come together to live and work gives great enjoyment'.*

And they go on, and on . . . *'I like the fact that you are given the opportunity to get to know people from different backgrounds, of different ages, of different religions and with different interests from you . . .'* *'I met so many different people — people I didn't get the opportunity to meet at home',* writes another *'from very different backgrounds and with such new and radical thoughts compared to my own. I'd had a very cosy, protected, middle class way of life at home, and at last was meeting people and making friends in every shape or form!'*

And, finally, two contributions from two regular project leaders who have 'been around' for some years — starting while at school, and now finished with university and starting new jobs in the Autumn . . . *'Toc H refreshes me and recharges the batteries, so I can go out into the world and not feel run down by the endless stream of barriers, but rather seek to penetrate the barriers and discover the real people behind them . . .'* and: *'Toc H has allowed me to be myself. It has given me space in which to explore my attitudes and feelings towards other people. It has helped me to be a more open person, and to accept all sorts of people. I think I always believed that one should be prepared to see everyone as an individual with something to offer, but Toc H has allowed me to personally experience this by giving me the opportunity to meet all kinds of people'.*

(Next month's theme is 'Service')

We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.

—Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In 1983

Roger S Broughton (Calstock)
Frederick W Hayward (Clevedon)
Maria Kelly (Stockport District)
Philip A Mason (Calstock)
Dennis A Swift (Stockport District)
Cyril Walkington (Bridlington)

1984

In April

Ronald W Lock (Clevedon)

In May

Archibald W Last (Mundesley)
Charles Phillips (Kennington (Kent))
Frank W Roberts (Tunbridge Wells District)

In June

Harry Ball (Milford-on-Sea)
William Barber (South East Herts District)
Robert Booker (Thornaby)
Thomas G 'Goldie' Goldfinch (Sittingbourne)

Gladys M Jackson (Springfields District)

Eric A Lodge (Huddersfield District)

Jack Mason (Hayes (Kent))

Laura M Nelson (late Milford-on-Sea)

Arthur Peachey (Worcester)

Arthur W Preece (Heathfield)

Tom D Taylor (Wortley-De-Leeds)

In July

Marjorie E Moore (Southdown District)

Joan I Parkinson (Springfields District)

H Cyril Shirtcliffe (Bakewell)

Henry R Watton (Fakenham)

Canon Malcolm D Grieve died last October at the age of 84. Until retiring and moving house some years ago, Canon Grieve had been a member of the former Urswick Men's Branch. More lately, members of Ulverston (Cumbria) Women's Branch remember him with affection as a kind and helpful Branch Padre.

Richmond (Surrey) Joint Branch report the death in April, at the age of 84, of **Reuben Moore**, a founder member of the former Pocklington Court Branch. Reuben, who was blind, kept in touch with Toc H in recent years through Richmond Branch. He will be greatly missed by the Branch and by all the residents of Pocklington Court.

Harry Chumbley, one time member of the former Wanstead & Woodford Men's Branch and latterly a much loved member of Chard Men's Branch, died in April at the age of 76. In his Essex days, Harry held office at Branch, District and Area level. Dennis Till writes: '... He graced

Chard Branch who were the richer for his presence. He will be sorely missed for his humour, his wisdom and his great knowledge of the Movement from its very early days...

New Addington (Surrey) Joint Branch report the death in April of **Jim Mott**. Jim — a Branch member for 30 years — had held all major Branch offices and served on the Springfield District Team. He was a founder member of a local club for the disabled, took an active part in setting up the local branch of the Samaritans and the well known New Addington Toc H Entertainers and was deeply involved in service for the elderly. When at last he became housebound, he built up a birthday card service for local members and their families. The Branch Secretary adds: 'So dedicated was he that one of our members received his greetings on the appropriate day — two days after Jim's death...'

George Dakin writes 'Llandrindod Wells Branch suffered a sad loss with the death in May of **Arthur Laurence Beddow** — for many years our memorable Branch Pilot. Though involved in several caring societies, Arthur always gave his Toc H membership the top priority, accepting during his 40 years involvement both Branch and District leadership. He was an Elder of Llandrindod Wells Presbyterian Church and the Minister conducted his funeral service there, jointly with the Rector of the Parish Church. Arthur was cremated at Hereford with Branch friends acting as bearers and the Toc H District Padre conducting the service.

Frank William Roberts died in hospital in May after a long illness: he was 83. Frank was a founder member of the former Pembury (Kent) Branch and an active member for the whole of the Branch's long life. In recent years, he remained a Tunbridge Wells District member.

Robyn Roberts writes: *Criccieth Branch suffered a great loss in the passing of **Goronwy Parry Jones**, aged 72, one of our oldest serving members. He joined Toc H over 30 years ago and throughout the years played a very active part, fulfilling his role as a member with courage and zest. One can truly say that his life was devoted to his church and to Toc H. He regularly attended our weekly meetings, and although he rarely took part in current discussions, he was an ardent worker in outside efforts: his*

actions spoke louder than his words. In his passing, a gap has been created which will be very hard to close. We praise God for giving us the loan of such a character.

Cecil Ambrose Gordon Waterfield ('Tony') — a Southdown District member and former member of Weybridge Branch — died in May. 'Tony', writes an old friend, 'lived all he saw as significant. He held Branch and District office and was a Central Councillor. Involved in prison visiting, the literacy campaign and other forms of service, he became a friend to many. He cared so much for people that he was unable to keep a professional detachment from those he supported. Thus, he suffered greatly through the behaviour of some of those he tried to help. But he never gave up: he carried his cross... Tony's life and death are lessons not to be ignored or forgotten'.

Belfairs (Essex) Women's Branch report the recent death of two old friends. **Connie Lew**, a former Branch member and latterly a Builder, died in June. Connie always gave her help enthusiastically to Branch activities and was one of their reliable fund raisers. **Miss Parker**, a Builder and close associate of the Branch, died recently at the age of over 90.

Fakenham (Norfolk) Branch, reporting the sudden death of their Chairman, **Ron Watton**, write: 'An ex-Guardsman and ex-London policeman, standing about 6ft 4ins, Ron was a large man in every way. For him no petty thoughts: his unflinching good humour was a great joy... If we needed a pane of glass in our Hut, then Ron cut the glass and fitted it; wiring up a flashing light for an old person was quickly done; breaking up wooden 'pallets' ready for kindling chopping for old folks was where he really shone. When he decorated a room for some needy person he required no steps to stand on; he sang lustily in our Gleesingers Concert Party; his car was always available for transport — no thoughts of "not my turn". One important job he did was to organise the local blood donor sessions — he trebled the number since he took over some years ago.

'Our Chairman for a number of years, Ron guided us wisely: it is difficult to envisage our Branch without him...'

We give thanks for their lives

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Christian Singles. Social events, nationwide. Friendship contacts, weekend houseparties, fellowship groups. Holidays, home/abroad. Christian Friendship Fellowship, Dept B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.

Fund raising through our hand crafted cuddly characters. Colour catalogue/charity pack details available from: Scarborough Soft Toy Manufacturers, Freepost, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

New '84 House Party Holidays for adults in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Opportunities for walking, pony trekking, squash, swimming. All great fun. Certain weeks for singles only under 35s, 35-55, 55+. Open all year. Party bookings. Colour brochure: Longstaff Leisure, 9 Primley Park Court, Leeds LS17 7LQ. Tel: 0532 688927.

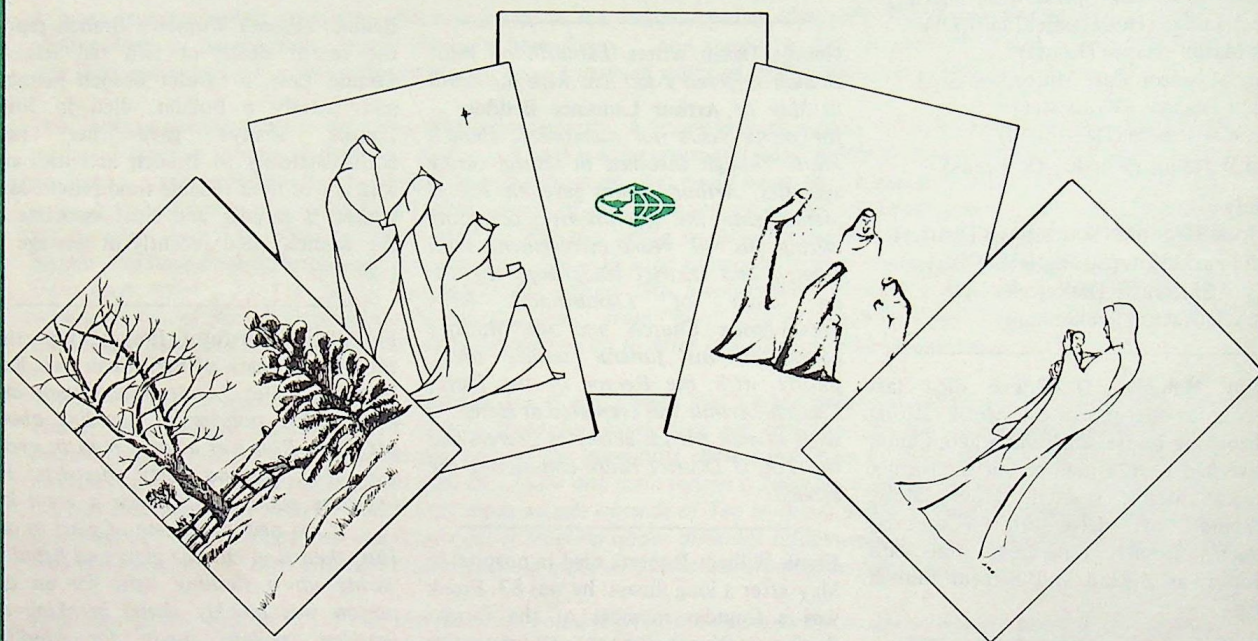
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